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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Friends of Ferndale Library Present \$20,000 Gift to New Library Fund**

Last year when a unique matching opportunity presented itself to the community for the new library, the Friends of Ferndale Library went out on a limb and pledged \$25,000. Today, they presented a check for \$20,000 of this pledge to the Whatcom Community Foundation, fiscal sponsor of the project.

Mayor Gary Jensen says this of the Friends, “The continued dedication of the Ferndale Friends of the Library is amazing to me! Day after day, year after year they donate their time and energy to our present facility and our new site. When you look at the total dollars they have raised and consider they are selling books at 25 cents each, and sometimes less, the Friends are the ROCK STARS of Ferndale fundraising.”

The volunteers who make up the Friends have worked many hours to support the fundraising for the new building, often raising money in 25 and 50 cent increments through their book sales. To date the Friends have donated \$60,568 to the campaign, and because of the various matching opportunities this has brought in a total of nearly \$175,000 for the new library. They anticipate paying off the remainder of their pledge in the next six months. Joan Airoidi, Director of the Whatcom County Library System says, “The Friends of Ferndale Library are truly an inspiration to us all. They are working tirelessly to make sure that this community has a library that they deserve and will serve them far into the future.”

Friends’ members also volunteer on the capital campaign committee, working with others involved in raising money and managing the project. According to Norine Amend, President of the Friends, “We’re in a good position to move this project forward. The architectural drawings are complete, the new police station will be completed this summer, the need for our library continues to grow and community support is high.”

According to Airoidi, “In these times, libraries provide essential information services. The Whatcom County Library is experiencing a steady growth, with a 9.4% increase in number of items checked out through November 2011. The monthly circulation rate of over 30,000 items at the Ferndale branch indicates that this community values and needs a library with greater capacity. This branch experiences a particularly high volume for a more rural community. It’s not unusual for the library to have more than 750 visits per day, and in mid-August nearly 1,200 people came through the door in one day!”

The community partners for this project hope that this high volume of library use will translate into a generous fundraising base to raise the additional \$2 million remaining in the campaign.

For more information or to make a contribution, visit www.newferndalelibrary.org or call the Whatcom Community Foundation at 360-671-6463.